

B. Suggested Reading

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has published a wealth of information about the methodologies that are used to prepare its national, industry, international, and regional accounts. Most of this information is available on BEA's Web site at <www.bea.gov>; see "Methodology Papers" and the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS under "Publications."

National accounts

The national accounts encompass the detailed estimates in the national income and product accounts (including gross domestic product) and the estimates of fixed assets and consumer durable goods.

National income and product accounts (NIPAs). This series of papers documents the conceptual framework of the NIPAs and the methodologies that have been used to prepare the estimates.

An Introduction to National Income and Product Accounts (2007)

Corporate Profits: Profits Before Tax, Profits Tax Liability, and Dividends (2002)

Government Transactions (1988)

Measuring the Economy: A Primer on GDP and the National Income and Product Accounts (2007)

Personal Consumption Expenditures (1990)

The methodologies described in these papers have been updated and improved, typically as part of the comprehensive and annual revisions of the NIPAs.

The following SURVEY articles describe the most recent comprehensive revision of the NIPAs.

"Improved Estimates of the National Income and Product Accounts for 1929–2002: Results of the Comprehensive Revision" (February 2004)

"Preview of the Revised NIPA Estimates for 1997 Effects of Incorporating the 1997 Benchmark I-O Accounts and Proposed Definitional and Statistical Changes" (January 2003)

"Preview of the 2003 Comprehensive Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts"

Changes in Definitions and Classifications
(June 2003)

New and Redesigned Tables (August 2003)

Statistical Changes (September 2003)

"Measuring the Services of Commercial Banks in the NIPAs: Changes in Concepts and Methods" (September 2003)

"Measuring the Services of Property-Casualty Insurance in the NIPAs: Changes in Concepts and Methods" (October 2003)

In addition, see the following articles.

"Annual Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts" (August 2007) presents revisions and describes any changes in the data and the methods that are used to prepare the estimates.

"Updated Summary NIPA Methodologies" (November 2007) describes the source data and the methods that are used to prepare the current-dollar and real estimates of GDP.

"Chained-Dollar Indexes: Issues, Tips on Their Use, and Upcoming Changes" (November 2003) discusses the advantages of using chain-weighted indexes and the challenges of using chained dollars.

"Reliability of the NIPA Estimates of U.S. Economic Activity" (February 2005) evaluates the principal NIPA estimates by examining the record of revisions to them.

"Gross Domestic Product: Revisions and Source Data" (February 2006) describes the categories of data that are used for the advance, preliminary, and final quarterly estimates of GDP.

Fixed assets and consumer durable goods. *Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods in the United States, 1925–97* (2003) discusses the concepts and statistical considerations that underlie the estimates and their derivation.

"Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods for 1925–2002" (May 2004) describes the improvements that were incorporated into these estimates as part of the most recent comprehensive NIPA revision.

"Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods for 1997–2006" (September 2007) provides estimates that reflect the incorporation of the most recent annual NIPA revision.

Satellite accounts. These accounts extend the analytical capacity of the NIPAs by focusing on the effects of a particular aspect of economic activity on GDP.

"Research and Development Satellite Account"

For 1959–2002 (December 2006)

For 1959–2003 (October 2007)

Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

The mission statement of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and its most recently updated strategic plan for improving the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of the national, industry, regional, and international accounts are available on BEA's Web site at <www.bea.gov> under "About BEA."

Industry accounts

The industry accounts consist of the annual industry accounts (the input-output accounts and the gross-domestic-product-by-industry accounts), the benchmark input-output accounts, and one satellite account.

Annual industry accounts. “Improved Annual Industry Accounts for 1998–2003” (June 2004) describes the comprehensive revision of the annual input-output accounts and the GDP-by-industry accounts that features the integration of the two sets of accounts.

“Annual Industry Accounts” (December 2006) presents the annual revision of these accounts and describes the source data and any changes in the methods that are used to prepare the estimates.

“Preview of the Comprehensive Revision of the Annual Industry Accounts: Integrating the Annual Input-Output Accounts and the Gross-Domestic-Product-by-Industry Accounts” (March 2004) provides the details about the comprehensive revision.

Benchmark input-output accounts. “Preview of the Benchmark Input-Output Accounts for 2002” (September 2005) includes the proposed new sectors that are based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System.

“U.S. Benchmark Input-Output Accounts, 2002” (October 2007)

Satellite accounts. These accounts extend the analytical capacity of the Input-Output accounts by focusing on a particular aspect of economic activity.

“U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts”

For 19981–2003 (September 2004)

For 2001–2004 (June 2005)

For 2002–2005 (June 2006)

For 1998–2006 (June 2007)

International accounts

The international accounts encompass the international transactions accounts, direct investment, and international transactions in services.

International transactions accounts. *The Balance of Payments of the United States: Concepts, Data Sources, and Estimating Procedures* (1990) describes the methodologies used to prepare the estimates in the ITAs and the international investment position of the United States. These methodologies are usually updated and improved as part of the annual revisions of the international transactions accounts.

The annual revisions of the international transactions accounts are described in a series of articles, the latest of which was published in the July 2007 SURVEY.

Direct investment. *International Direct Investment: Studies by the Bureau of Economic Analysis* (1999) is a collection of previously published articles on U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment

in the United States. It includes “A Guide to BEA Statistics on U.S. Multinational Companies,” which is also available in the March 1995 SURVEY, and “A Guide to BEA Statistics on Foreign Direct Investment in the United States,” which is also available in the February 1990 SURVEY.

In addition, the updated methodologies are available in *U.S. Direct Investment Abroad: Final Results From the 1999 Benchmark Survey* (2004) and in *Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Final Results From the 2002 Benchmark Survey* (2006).

International services. *U.S. International Transactions in Private Services: A Guide to the Surveys Conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis* (1998) describes 11 surveys. It includes classifications, definitions, release schedules, the methods used to prepare the estimates, and samples of the survey forms.

“Selected Issues in the Measurement of U.S. International Services” (June 2002) describes key issues in defining and measuring insurance, wholesale and retail trade, finance, construction, and utilities services and explores possible actions to address these issues.

Regional accounts

The regional accounts include estimates of personal income and gross domestic product.

Personal income. Estimates of personal income are prepared for states and for local areas.

“Comprehensive Revision of State Personal Income for 1969–2003” (May 2004) describes the improvements in the methodology that are used to prepare the estimates and that are part of a comprehensive revision.

“Comprehensive Revision of Local Area Personal Income for 1969–2002” (June 2004) summarizes the improvements in the methodology that is used to prepare the estimates for counties and metropolitan areas. The detailed methodology is available on the DVD-ROM *Regional Economic Information System, 1969–2005*.

Gross domestic product. Estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) are prepared for states and metropolitan areas.

“Comprehensive Revision of Gross State Product” (January 2005) summarizes the sources and the methods that are used to prepare the estimates.

“Gross Domestic Product by State for 2003–2006” (July 2007) presents the most recent annual revision.

“Introducing New Measures of the Metropolitan Economy: Prototype GDP-by-Metropolitan-Area Estimates for 2001–2005” (November 2007) describes the potential uses of the estimates and the methodology used to prepare them.